

Biography for Richard Fink II:

Richard Fink II is the Superintendent of Parks and Grounds for the City of Greenbelt. His background is in parks and historic site management, and comes to Greenbelt via positions with the Parks and People Foundation in Baltimore, the Central Park Conservancy in Manhattan, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Richard received a Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations and a Bachelor's Degree in History from Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania. He also obtained a Masters of Arts Degree in History from Temple University in Philadelphia.

Richard is particularly interested in how people use and interpret local green and historic spaces. He has received awards from the PEW Charitable Trust for innovative public engagement practices, and has also served as Public Relations Chairman for the nationally recognized Historic Germantown consortium in Philadelphia.

Richard's academic research and personal interests have explored death, in particular how historic sites and cemeteries use "ghost stories" and "haunted events" to generate increased attendance and profit. In 2010 Richard placed 2nd in the "Be Your Own Boss Bowl" International Business Plan competition for his proposal to develop a museum interpreting the history of death, which is now online at MacabreMuseum.com.

Richard lives in Silver Spring with his spouse, their dog Scrambles, and their Cat Brooklyn. He is excited to join the Greenbelt team!

Erin Josephitis
B.A. Rollins College, 2014

Erin is the 2014–2015 Volunteer Maryland Coordinator for the City of Greenbelt Department of Public Works in partnership with CHEARS. She spent her childhood growing up in Lake Bluff, IL, and is a recent graduate from Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. Her undergraduate major is Environmental Studies and minor is Sustainable Development. Her professional skills and interests include environmental science, permaculture, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and urban planning. She loves traveling and experiencing different cultures, spending time outdoors, contributing to ecological research, and sharing her passion for nature with others.



In 2011, Erin studied abroad for a semester in Australia with School for International Training (SIT), where she published her first scientific research on coral reef bleaching in *Conservation Science, Western Australia*, Vol. 8. A year and a half later, she studied abroad again with SIT for a semester in Panama and Costa Rica, where she embraced the opportunity to improve her Spanish communication skills. Her independent field research project that monitors butterfly populations in Panama's Parque Natural Metropolitano (en español) is posted on the SIT online library.

Erin's most recent research, *Central Florida Butterfly Conservation: The Importance of Host Plants in Sandhill and Urban Habitats* is part of the Rollins College Honors Theses 2014 collection. Her work demonstrates the urgency of protecting natural sandhill habitat, as well as the value of planting butterfly gardens in urban areas as a means to mitigate the effects of urbanization and to enhance biodiversity.

She demonstrates an ongoing commitment to working with others in making a difference in her community. During her free time as an undergraduate student, she organized and participated in several volunteer opportunities as a member of the Rollins College Service House. As the Sustainability Intern at the Department of Public Works in Winter Park, FL, Erin educated the public about sustainable gardening principles and coordinated volunteers to plant a public edible arboretum.

Erin looks forward to coordinating several impactful volunteer events in Greenbelt, MD. Her most important goal is to engage and inspire community members to become active citizens and environmental stewards.

